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demonstrated that this method of entertainment, by bringing all of the members together under conditions permitting of informal discussion and exchange of ideas, adds greatly to the pleasure and value of the meeting.

JOSEPH ERLANGER,
Acting Secretary

WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY MEDICAL SCHOOL

THE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN GEOGRAPHERS

THE Association of American Geographers held its ninth annual meeting at New Haven, Connecticut, December 27-28, 1912. The sessions were held in Lampson Hall, Yale University, and an informal meeting took place Friday evening at the Graduates' Club. In the absence of the president (Professor Salisbury), Mr. M. R. Campbell, the first vice-president, presided. About thirty members attended.

It is gratifying to the members to see the increasing number of papers on anthropogeography, regional geography, and climatology that deal with human relations, a feature less prominent in the earlier programs of the association. Seven purely physiographic papers were presented out of a total of sixteen. Great interest is manifested in the *Annals* of the association since the appearance of the first volume during the past year. The publication committee has performed a distinct service to geographic science in securing papers of high quality and a volume of excellent appearance.

The newly-elected officers for 1913 are as follows:

President—Henry G. Bryant.

First Vice-president—Ellsworth Huntington.

Second Vice-president—Charles C. Adams.

Secretary—A. P. Brigham.

Treasurer—F. E. Matthes.

Councillor (for three years)—R. DeC. Ward.

The publication committee appointed for two years (1913 and 1914) consists of R. E. Dodge, editor, and Alfred H. Brooks, H. E. Gregory and H. H. Barrows.

ISAIAH BOWMAN,
*Acting Secretary, Session
of December, 1912*

THE CONVENTION OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERS

THE sixth annual convention of the American Society of Agricultural Engineers was held at the Great Northern Hotel, Chicago, December 26, 27

and 28. The attendance of members was very good, but the noticeable feature this year was the unusually large number present of manufacturers, designers, etc. This is very encouraging to the officers and shows that the work of the society is being kept practical enough to interest the commercial man.

Thursday afternoon was devoted largely to general agricultural machinery interests. Mr. Sjogren, of the University of Nebraska, presented a paper on "Tests of Corn Planters," which gave the results of a series of tests run on accuracy of drop. Professor C. A. Ocock, of the University of Wisconsin, in his paper on "Draft of the Plow," showed by tables and curves, the variations in the draft of a plow as affected by width, depth, type of moldboard and condition of soil. In the paper on "Isolated Gas-lighting Plants" Mr. Eugene Becker, of the Atlantic Blau-Gas Company, described the different systems using gasoline gas, acetylene and Blaugas, with the advantages and disadvantages of each. Admixture of a certain proportion of air made either of these gases explosive, either a richer or leaner mixture being non-explosive: gasoline—2 per cent. to 5 per cent. by volume of gasoline vapor—98 per cent. to 95 per cent. air; acetylene—2 per cent. to 49 per cent. by volume acetylene—98 per cent. to 51 per cent. air; Blaugas—4 per cent. to 8 per cent. by volume Blaugas—96 per cent. to 92 per cent. air. Thus acetylene has a very wide explosive range, Blaugas next, and gasoline least. On the point of quality of light, acetylene is the best, but for convenience and safety Blaugas was probably most satisfactory.

Friday was devoted to the tractor and standardization questions. In his paper on "Testing of Gas Tractors" L. W. Chase, of the University of Nebraska, reviewed the results secured through the Winnipeg Motor Contests. C. F. Hirschfeld, of Cornell University, in a paper on "Principles of Fuel Oil Engines" explained the matter of carburetion of various fuel oils, the principles and chemistry of their combustion and the difficulties met in adapting them as fuels for internal combustion engines. E. H. Ehrman, of the Chicago Screw Company, in his paper on "The Standardization Work of the Society of Automobile Engineers," gave the society an account of the methods and guiding principles for the standardization work of his society. The influence of standardization in cheapening production and repairs and in keeping down monopoly was brought out in

"Standardization in Agricultural Engineering" by J. B. Davidson, of Iowa State College. This subject was continued by "Standards in Agricultural Machinery," by J. A. King, of Sears, Roebuck and Company. W. J. Brandon, of the Avery Company, in his paper, "Standards in Gas Tractor Construction," took up the question of standardization as applied to the gas tractor industry.

Saturday was set aside for papers along the teaching phase of the work. A paper by Daniels Scoates, of the Mississippi Agricultural College, on "Laboratory Exercises in Farm Machinery," brought out the fact that the subject naturally divides into farm mechanics, farm motors and farm machinery. "The Design of an Agricultural Engineering Building," by H. C. Pamsower, took up the design of a proposed building for the Ohio State University. The plans as shown were discussed by E. A. White, of the University of Illinois, and J. L. Mowry, of the University of Wisconsin.

The committee on the proposed Bureau of Agricultural Engineering reported through J. B. Davidson that the society should lend all possible aid towards securing the passage of the Rainey bill in its present form, providing the creation of a Bureau of Farm Power, inasmuch as parts of the work proposed to be included in the wider plan is already partly taken care of under different bureaus and there would be great opposition towards making the necessary reorganizations.

Extensive changes were authorized in the constitution of the society, especially as to classes of members, qualifications of members, methods of electing members, and in dues. The intention is to make the requirements for active membership more rigid, but to provide a wider range of membership through associates, juniors and affiliates. Originally composed of college men engaged in the teaching of agricultural engineering subjects, the society has been broadened to include manufacturers, technical men, etc. The increase in membership has been rapid, that of the present year being between forty and fifty per cent.; while under the new provisions of the constitution, and due to the increased interest aroused by the standardization and tractor contest problems, a still greater increase is looked for in the present year.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:

President—L. W. Chase, Lincoln, Neb.

First Vice-president—E. A. Rumely, La Porte, Ind.

Second Vice-president—J. A. King, Chicago, Ill.

Secretary—I. W. Dickerson, Urbana, Ill.

Treasurer—J. L. Mowry, St. Paul, Minn.

Councilor—J. B. Davidson, Ames, Ia.

I. W. DICKERSON,

Secretary

SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES

THE ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

THE 464th regular meeting of the society was held at 4:30 P.M., December 17, 1912, in Room 43 of the New National Museum, the president, Mr. Stetson, in the chair.

Professor C. V. Piper read a paper on the Filipinos and the problem of their government, beginning by a general résumé of the insular conditions and various peoples dwelling there, of whom he said the Negroites, now found mainly in four islands but once in nearly all, are generally regarded as the original inhabitants, the Igorrotes and other wild tribes being the next to arrive, the Filipinos next, perhaps about A.D. 500, and the Moros last, not long before the time of the Spanish occupation. At some length he described the Filipino characteristics, distinguishing between the small educated minority and the majority of ignorant laborers. His conclusion was that immediate independence would be injurious, but that our government should establish some limit in the future defined by conditions of education of the majority of the race. The most remarkable thing we are doing there, he said, is the attempt, for the first time in history, to educate an inferior people *en masse*. The Asiatic European colonies have little faith in its success, but are influenced by it and our general policy.

Dr. Riley B. Moore read a paper on his observations in St. Lawrence Island, one hundred by thirty miles of treeless swamp and tundra, inhabited by some two hundred and fifty people, the debris of five different tribes in the Bering Sea. Some of these resemble Sioux Indians: others are typical Mongolians, with all intervening kinds. In summer they have a profusion of birds and fish to feed on; but in other seasons their food is whale-meat, seal-meat and walrus-meat. They live with little ventilation and many skin diseases. Tuberculosis also is very common. The death rate has long exceeded the birth rate.

W. H. BABCOCK

Secretary